



SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE
RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of Cambridge



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for

1944

To the Chairman and Members
of the
South Cambridgeshire Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present for your consideration my
Annual Report for the year 1944 on the Health, Sanitary
Conditions, and Vital Statistics, of the South Cambridgeshire
Rural District.

The Report is prepared in accordance
with the instructions contained in Circular 49/45 issued by
the Ministry of Health in March 1945.

The general health of the population has
so far, continued to be good.

Arthur Morgan,
Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area of District	-112,315 acres
Number of inhabited houses	- 7,254
Number of parishes	- 52
Estimated population	- 22,270
Rateable value	-£79,455
Sum represented by a penny rate	-£336 0s 0d.

Apart from one parish, where there are several factories, the whole area is rural in character. The major occupations are those associated with agriculture or subsidiary thereto.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	389	199	190
Illegitimate	33	18	15
Totals	<u>422</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>205</u>

Birth Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	- 18.9
Birth Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales)	- 17.6

Still Births:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	8	3	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)	- 18.6
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Deaths:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
	346	167	179

Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population	- 15.5
Death Rate per 1000 population (England and Wales)	- 11.6

Death from puerperal causes:-

- (a) Puerperal sepsis - Nil.
 (b) Other puerperal causes. - 1

Rate per 1000 total (live and still births) - 2.3

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate	10	7	3
Illegitimate	2	1	1
	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:-

(a) All infants per 1000 live births	- 27.9
(b) Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births	- 25.5
(c) Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	- 60.6
	1944. 1943. 1942. 1941. 1940. 1939. 1938.
Deaths from measles (all ages)	- - - - -
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	- - - 1 - - -
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years)	- 1 - 1 - - -
Deaths from pneumonia (all ages)	11 8 11 12 15 8 6
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	4 8 4 8 7 8 2
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	46 47 54 55 59 39 41

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There are no alterations to record in the general arrangement of these services.

Public Health Officers of the Authority:-

(a) A whole time Medical Officer of Health who also acts for other districts.

(b) Since the resignation of the Assistant Sanitary Inspector in October 1943 Mr. A.C. Dyson, the Senior Inspector, has carried on without assistance. It is impossible, in a scattered area of this size, for the work to be done efficiently by one Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities:-

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge. The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, make all the necessary bacteriological examinations in cases of infectious diseases etc.

Samples of milk are dealt with by the Agricultural Department, University of Cambridge, or by the Emergency Public Health Laboratory

Hospitals:-

There are no General Hospitals situated in the area.

Isolation Hospitals:-

None within the area. Cases of infectious disease requiring hospital treatment are generally sent to the Cambridge Borough Isolation Hospital. Some, however, have gone to the Newmarket Rural District Council's (Cambs) Isolation Hospital near Newmarket. In each case the charges are £2 12s. 6d. weekly plus the cost of removal by ambulance.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:-

The chemical treatment of the water from Croydon Pumping Station with Sodium Hexa-metaphosphate (Calgon) was continued during the year. While some improvement has been effected by this treatment the water is at times still turbid, particularly at dead ends, and in some of the Analyst's reports mention is made of the presence of "iron bacteria" and turbidity due to the precipitation of iron oxycarbonate.

Although there was no acute shortage of water in the district during the drought period, several of the shallow wells ran dry and tentative arrangements had to be made for water to be carted in 2 parishes.

Proportion of houses to which water is laid on.	- 2,462
Proportion of houses supplied by standpipes and those within 100 yards of a water main.	- 2,345

Number of samples taken for analysis:-

(A) Piped supplies (Chemical and Bacteriological)	- 39
Piped supplies (Bacteriological)	- 19

In every instance the results indicated that the necessary standard of purity was being maintained.

(B) Private Supplies (Chemical Examination only) - 21

14 were found to be fit for drinking purposes and 7 to be unfit.

Drainage & Sewerage:-

During the year new drains complying with the Building Byelaws were constructed for 13 houses. Unsatisfactory drains were dealt with at 11 houses and necessary alterations made to comply with the Building Byelaws.

Whilst there was an improvement in the state of the sewer at Sawston due to increased flushing and cleansing, the sewage disposal still function in a most unsatisfactory manner. No improvement of the conditions can be expected until the whole village is properly sewered and new disposal works constructed.

Rivers & Streams:-

Pollution of the rivers at Linton and Sawston still continues and such pollution will not be remedied until both these parishes are properly sewered.

At Hinxton & Kneesworth there is pollution of the rivers from property occupied by the Air Ministry. Both the Air Ministry and the Ministry of Health have been communicated with, but, up to the present the matter has not been remedied.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

1. Number of water closets provided:-

By conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets	- 2
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2. Number of pail closets provided:-

By conversion of privies to pail closets	- 3
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PUBLIC CLEANSING

Periodical collections of refuse were continued in the parishes of Bassingbourn, Kneesworth, Melbourn, Litlington, Hinxton, Ickleton, Linton, Gt. Chishill, Sawston, Horseheath, Castle Camps, Shudy Camps, Gamlingay, East Hatley, Hatley St. George and Whittlesford. The usual collections at Abington Pigotts, Meldreth and Thriplow were not made owing to the Council being unable to get contractors to undertake the work.

Most of the refuse dumps are in a very untidy condition partly due to dumping by unauthorised persons and partly by the Contractors having insufficient time and labour to cover the refuse as directed.

Owing to the greatly increased use of tinned foods the present system of collection is inadequate, as is evidenced by the number of tins dumped throughout the district, and a proper system of scavenging for the whole of the district should be considered as soon as circumstances permit. Recommendations concerning this matter were made to the Public Health Committee as far back as December 1937.

A weekly collection of night soil was continued in part of the parish of Sawston. The area dealt with contained 156 houses.

CAMPING SITES.

During the year 6 licences were granted in respect of sites for Moveable Dwellings.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Disinfestation was carried out at 2 houses by spraying with Zeldeide.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Complaints	216
Housing:-	
General inspections for repairs etc.	89
Housing (Consolidated) Regulations	16
Reinspections	433
Overcrowding	10
Preliminary Housing Survey	48
Infectious Diseases:-	
Cases investigated	28
No. of rooms disinfected	35
Verminous premises:-	
Inspections	29
Disinfestations	9
Water Supply:-	
Inspections	203
Samples of water for analysis	81
Samples of water re chemical treatment	17
Chlorination Tests	206
Mild & Dairies Order:-	
Inspections of cowsheds and dairies	374
No. of samples of milk taken	2
No. of Sediment Tests made	2
Meat Inspections	230
Ditches, drains and cesspools	253
Food premises, bakehouses, etc.	28
Factories Act	12
Sanitary Accommodation	42
Schools	8
Scavenging & Cleansing	70
Movable Dwellings	4
Sewage Disposal	82
Infestation Order, 1943	40
A.R.P. Services	26
Salvage	1
Miscellaneous Inspections	48
	<u>2622</u>

Number of nuisances abated and defects etc. remedied 106

Repairs done to 59 houses as a result of informal action.
Repairs done to 10 houses as a result of formal action.

H O U S I N G.

Repairs of an urgent and essential nature have continued to be dealt with, but it has become increasingly difficult for owners to get builders & thatchers to undertake the work, with the result that many houses have now got into such a bad state of disrepair as to render them unfit for human habitation.

So far it has been impossible to commence the Survey of Working Class houses in the district in accordance with the circular received from the Ministry of Health but it is estimated from information already to hand that there are approximately 500 to 550 houses which are either unfit, require structural alterations or improvements or are suitable for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose

89

89

(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 & 1932.	16
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	18
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	77
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	59
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-	
(A)	Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	9
(B)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
	(a) By Owners	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
(C)	Proceedings under section 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil.
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders:-	
	(a) By Owners	Nil.
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
(D)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined.	Nil.
4.	Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.	
	Number of new cases of overcrowding.	7
	Number of cases abated	Nil.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply:-

Number of Wholesale Producers	54
Number of Producer-Retailers	63
Number of Wholesale & Retail Producers	13
Number of Retail Purveyors only	17

Of the above number, 10 are T.T. producers and 44 Accredited Producers.

During the year 374 visits were made to cowsheds and dairies, and it was found that in spite of labour difficulties, a fairly good standard of cleanliness was being maintained. Structural alterations were carried out in some cases and in others arrangements made for improvements to be effected as soon as labour becomes available. Owing to the shortage of staff it was impossible to take samples of milk under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme which is now done by the War Agricultural Officers.

(b) Meat & Other Foods

Number of visits to meat stores, shops and buffer depots - 230
The following meat, tinned foods etc. were found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed:-

- 119 tins of milk
- 20 tins of Pork Luncheon Meat
- 12 tins of Corned Beef
- 5 tins of Prem
- 5 tins of chopped Ham
- 2 tins of Stewed Steak
- 2 tins of Ox Tongues
- 23 tins of Fish
- 18 tins of Peas
- 5 tins of Beans
- 4 tins of Soup
- 169 tins of Assorted Foodstuffs
- 16½ lbs. of Cheese
- 17 lbs. of Imported Beef
- 28¾ lbs. of Bacon

Prevalence of, and Control over,
Infectious and other Diseases.

There is not much of importance to report under this heading. The total number of notifications and the age groups are given in the following table.

Analysis under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified	Admitted Hospital Deaths												
		-1.	1-.	2-.	3-.	4-.	5-.	10-.	15-.	20-.	35-.	45-.	65-.	
Scarlet fever.	13	1.	2.		9.	1.						2.	Nil.	
Measles.	95.	3.	6.	2.	8.	6.	43.	21.	1.	5.			Nil.	
Whooping cough	56.	7.	2.	7.	7.	5.	26.	1.				1.	Nil.	
Pneumonia	3.		1.				1.					1.	1	
Puerperal pyrexia.	4.								4.				Nil.	
Erysipelas.	3.								1.	2.			Nil.	
Totals	174	10.	10.	11.	15.	11.	78.	24.	1.	9.	1.	2.	2.	1.

Notifications of some of the principal infectious diseases during the last six years as compared with the present year:-

	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.
Scarlet fever	14.	26.	12.	5.	17.	10.	13
Diphtheria	1.	1.	1.	1.	2.	2.	Nil
Measles	-	-	134	681	25.	256.	95
Whooping cough	-	14.	57	73	92	112	56
Pneumonia	8	18	13	20	6	11	3

Measles and whooping cough became notifiable in October 1939.

Diphtheria immunisation:- The general arrangements outlined in my Report for the year 1942 have been continued. It is estimated that

at the end of 1944 78% of children under 5 years of age and 84% of those over 5 had been fully protected. Diphtheria prophylactic and diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free of charge to all medical practitioners. Diphtheria has never been particularly prevalent in this area. During the years 1934 - 1944, inclusive, only fifteen cases were notified.

So far as the non-notifiable infectious diseases is concerned information is more limited but, so far as can be ascertained, there has been no particular incidence that calls for special comment.

Tuberculosis.

New cases and Mortality during 1944.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-								
1-				1.				
5-			1.	3.				
15-	2.	3.				1.		1.
25-		2.						
35-	2.	1.			2.	1.		
45-	1.	2.			3.	1.		
55-	2.							
65- & upwards-	1.			1.		1.		
Totals	8.	8.	1.	5.	5.	4.		1.

There were two deaths of cases not previously notified. No action has been required under the Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Arthur Morgan,
M.A.,M.R.C.S.,D.P.H.